

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 3157

EXDIS

FOR WELLMAN (S/ NM)

E. O.11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJ NARCOTICS - POSSIBLE MEETING ON QUESTION OF OPIUM SHORTAGE

REF GOGH LTR TO WELLMAN OF JUNE 18

1. DITTERT REPORTS THAT MALLINCKRODT (VICE PRES A. H. HOMEYER) HAS CONTACTED INCB PRESIDENT GREENFIELD TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT OPIUM SHORTAGE AND TO SUGGEST THAT GREENFIELD CONVENE " WORKSHIP" OF FEW INTERESTED COUNTRIES TO DISCUSS SITUATION BEFORE INDIA ESTABLISHES ITS NEXT PRODUCTION FIGURES. DITTERT SAYS GREENFIELD ADVISED MALLINCKRODT TO TAKE MATTER UP WITH WELLMAN (S/ NM).
2. DITTERT NOTES HE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP USG VIEWS AS TO WHETHER INFORMAL MEETING ON QUESTION OPIUM SHORTAGE SHOULD BE CONVENED UNDER INCB AUSPICES.
3. DITTERT SAYS THAT IF SUCH MEETING IS TO BE HELD BEFORE INDIA DECIDES ON CULTIVATION/ LICENSING FOR 1974 CROP, TIMING SHOULD BE LATE AUG. DITTERT NOTES THAT ITEM ON OPIUM SITUATION WILL BE ON AGENDA CND NEXT FEB BUT EXPRESSES VIEW THAT TO DEFER DISCUSSION UNTIL THEN WOULD NOT PERMIT PRESENT SITUATION TO BE REFLECTED IN INDIA' S DECISION RE ITS 1974 CROP.
4. DITTERT ADDS THAT IF INFORMAL MEETING IS TO BE HELD, HE

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AND GREENFIELD SUGGEST GENEVA AS LOCALE. ON MEMBERSHIP, HE BELIEVES GROUP SHOULD BE SMALL AND MENTIONED IT MIGHT CONSIST OF INDIA, US, USSR, UK, NETHERLANDS, FRG, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND SPAIN. ON CHAIRMANSHIP, HE NOTES THAT SAMPSON (NETH) HAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF INCB' S CONVENING MEETING ON OPIUM SHORTAGE UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF GREENFIELD.

5. FROM DITTERT' S REMARKS, MISOFF HAS IMPRESSION HE IS NOT SURE MEETING NECESSARY AND THAT HIS VIEW WILL DEPEND ON RESULTS HIS CALCULATIONS ON OPIUM SITUATION ONCE HE RECEIVES INDIA' S OFFICIAL PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1972/73. AS MENTIONED REF LTR, INCB MEMBER KRISHNAMOORTHY HAS BEEN ASKED SUPPLY OFFICIAL DATA TO BOARD, BUT DITTERT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED THEM. DITTERT NOTES THAT HIS CALCULATIONS, BASED ON UNOFFICIAL DATA (1972 FIGURES WERE GIVEN TO HIM BY MALINCKRODT AND HE ASSUMED 900 TONS FOR 1973) AND ON HYPOTHESIS THAT CONSISTENCY IS 90 DEGREES, WOULD SHOW STOCKS AT BEGINNING OF 1974 AT 755 TONS (SEE ENCLOSURE REF LTR). OBSERVES THAT IF OFFICIAL INDIAN PRODUCTION FIGURES ARE IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF THIS UNOFFICIAL DATA AND IF CONSISTENCY IS 90 DEGREES, OPIUM SITUATION " WOULD NOT BE SO GRAVE". DITTERT SAYS THAT WHILE HE EXPECTS RECEIVE OFFICIAL DATA FROM KRISHNAMOORTHY HOPEFULLY SOON, HE WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE ANY INFO USG CAN SUPPLY WHICH COULD CONFIRM INDIAN PRODUCTION FIGURES WHICH HE USED AS BASIS AFORE- MENTIONED CALCULATIONS, TOGETHER WITH INDICATION AS TO DEGREE OF CONSISTENCY FOR 1972/ 73, I. E., WHETHER MATERIAL IS 90 OR 70 DEGREES CONSISTENCY.

6. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP RE WHETHER USG CONSIDERS IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR INFORMAL MEETING ON OPIUM SITUATION TO BE HELD LATE AUG UNDER INCB AUSPICES. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ASAP INFO AVAILABLE USG RE INDIAN 1972/73 PRODUCTION FIGURES AND DEGREE OF CONSISTENCY. BASSIN

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